

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, US, UR

SUBJECT PAINT THROWING INCIDENT AT CARNEGIE
HALL.

1. AT A CONCERT OF VIOLINIST VLADIMIR SPIVAKOV AT CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK CITY, ON NOV. 7, TWO YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE, AT AN INTERVAL OF ABOUT 20 MINUTES, SEPARATELY APPROACHED THE STAGE AND THREW CONTAINERS OF RED PAINT AT THE PERFORMER. AT LEAST ONE OF THE CONTAINERS STRUCK SPIVAKOV, SPATTERING HIM, HIS VIOLIN, AND MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE WITH PAINT. BOTH OF THE ATTACKERS, WHO WERE UNARMED, SHOUTED -- ONE QUOTED AS SAYING "NEVER AGAIN". EACH WAS ARRESTED AND DETAINED OVERNIGHT IN JAIL.

2. THE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT ONE OF THE ATTACKERS ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE.

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3. THE DEPARTMENT EXPRESSED ITS REGRET TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON NOV. 8, AND GAVE THE EMBASSY THE SUBSTANCE OF PARAGRAPH 1, ABOVE. MAYOR BEAME ISSUED STATEMENT DEPLORING INCIDENT.

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4. VIKTOR SAKOVICH, CULTURAL COUNSELOR OF SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT (EUR/SOV) NOV. 9, TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR OFFICIALLY PROTESTS THE SPIVAKOV INCIDENT;
- THE EMBASSY WILL COMMUNICATE TO NEW YORK IMPRESARIOS SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO SCHEDULE FURTHER APPEARANCES BY PERFORMING ARTISTS (ALTHOUGH HE STOPPED SHORT OF CANCELING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED CONCERTS);
- IT IS THE VIEW OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT PROSECUTION OF THE CULPRITS IS IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY, AND THAT THE STANDARD PROCEDURE OF A FINE OF TWENTY TO THIRTY DOLLARS, IS AN INEFFECTIVE DETERRENT; AND
- DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO INFORM THE SOVIET EMBASSY OF ACTION TAKEN IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE INCIDENT.

5. DEPTOFF RESPONDED BY REITERATING SINCERE REGRETS AS CONVEYED NOVEMBER 8 (PARA 3) AND ASSURING SOVIET EMBASSY OF INTENTIONS TO TAKE ALL APPROPRIATE ACTION. IN LIGHT OF MAJOR BEAMES STATEMENT AND SINCERE EFFORTS USG, HE ADDED, DEPARTMENT WOULD HOPE SOVIETS WILL GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO RESTRICTIONS ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOVIET ARTISTS TO APPEAR IN N.Y. KISSINGER

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